

In the Claims:

Please replace the claims with the following listing of claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for processing a queue of messages, each message representing at least one request for an update to a database, the method comprising:
browsing messages of a work queue for an update request, the browsing conducted by way of a processor in communication with a memory storing the work queue, the update request queued at least a predetermined number of messages ahead of a currently executing database request, the work queue comprising a combination of update requests and database requests received for a database management system (DBMS);
identifying the update request from a browsed message in the work queue;
sending a pretend update request to the DBMS responsible for the database which is to be updated, the pretend update request derived from the update request;
translating the pretend update request into a prefetch request comprising an indication that directs the DBMS to not execute an update operation, but instead to prefetch data that will be required when the update request is processed; and
wherein the prefetch request has a predetermined form comprising at least an identifier and the method further comprises,
retaining the predetermined form of the prefetch request;

associating the identifier with the retained predetermined form in order that the predetermined form can be identified and used in subsequent performance of the a real update request, such that the retained predetermined form is used by the DBMS in place of parsing the real update request; and
returning the identifier in response to the pretend update request.

2. (Cancelled)
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising initiating a real update request by destructively getting a message from a queue comprising the update request, the real update request using prefetched data.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein initiating a real update request is performed by a master thread and browsing a message is performed by one or more read ahead threads.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein processing of the master thread is maintained behind the read ahead thread by a predetermined number of messages.
6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
- associating the pretend update request with an identifier by the DBMS;
 - receiving the identifier from the DBMS; and
 - issuing the real update request by sending the identifier with the update request.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising informing a memory manager that the prefetched data used may be discarded from memory subsequent to the use of the prefetched data in the processing of ~~a~~the real update request.
9. – 18. (Cancelled)
19. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method for facilitating database performance by pre-processing update requests to a database management system (DBMS) for a queue of messages, comprising:
- executing a computer program product on a processor in communication with a memory, the computer program product configured to:
 - receive an update request at the DBMS;
 - receive an indication at the DBMS indicating that the update request is a pretend update request that directs the DBMS to not execute the update but instead to prefetch data for the update request;
 - translate the pretend update request into a prefetch request comprising an indication that directs the DBMS to not

execute the update operation, but instead to prefetch data that will be required when the update request is processed; prefetch required data based on the prefetch request; and receiving a real update request at the DBMS; executing the real update request using the prefetched data; informing a memory manager that the prefetched data may be discarded from memory subsequent to the use of the prefetched data in the processing of a real update request; and wherein the prefetch request has a predetermined form comprising at least an identifier and the method further comprises, retaining the predetermined form of the prefetch request; associating the identifier with the retained predetermined form in order that the predetermined form can be identified and used in subsequent performance of ~~the~~ a real update request, such that retained predetermined form is used by the DBMS in place of parsing the real update request; and returning the identifier in response to the pretend update request.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (New) A computer program product for pre-processing at a database management system (DBMS) of update requests to a database controlled by the DBMS, the computer program product comprising:

computer usable program code for receiving an update request at the DBMS, the computer usable program code executed by a processor in communication with a memory storing the computer usable program code, the update request queued at least a predetermined number of messages ahead of a currently executing database request, the work queue comprising a combination of update requests and database requests received for the database management system (DBMS);

computer usable program code for receiving an indication at the DBMS indicating that the update request is a pretend update request that directs the DBMS to not execute an update request but instead to prefetch data for the update request;

computer usable program code for translating the pretend update request into a prefetch request;

computer usable program code for prefetching required data based on the prefetch request, the prefetched data required for when the update request is processed; and

wherein the prefetch request has a predetermined form comprising at least an identifier and the computer program product further comprises,

computer usable program code for retaining the predetermined form of the prefetch request;

computer usable program code for associating the identifier with the retained predetermined form in order that the predetermined form can be identified and used in subsequent performance of a real update request, such that the retained

predetermined form is used by the DBMS in place of parsing the real update request; and

computer usable program code for returning the identifier in response to the pretend update request.

22. (New) The computer program product of claim 21 further comprising computer usable program code for receiving the real update request at the DBMS and computer usable program code for executing the real update request using previously prefetched data.

23. (New) The computer program product of claim 21 further comprising computer usable program code for receiving the identifier with the real update request, and computer usable program code for using the predetermined form associated with the identifier in performance of the real update request.

24. (New) The computer program product of claim 21 further comprising computer usable program code for informing a memory manager that the prefetched data may be discarded from memory subsequent to the use of the prefetched data in the processing of the real update request.

25. (New) A system for processing a queue of messages, each message representing at least one request for an update to a database, the system comprising:

a processor in communication with a memory comprising,

computer usable program code for browsing an unexecuted messages of a work queue for an update request, the update request queued at least a predetermined number of messages ahead of a currently executing database request, the work queue comprising a combination of update requests and database requests received for a database management system (DBMS);

computer usable program code for identifying the update request from an unexecuted message in the work queue;

computer usable program code for sending a pretend update request to the DBMS responsible for the database which is to be updated, the pretend update request derived from the update request;

computer usable program code for translating the pretend update request into a prefetch request comprising an indication that directs the DBMS to not execute an update operation, but instead to prefetch data that will be required when the unexecuted update request is processed; and

wherein the prefetch request has a predetermined form comprising at least an identifier and the computer program product further comprises,

computer usable program code for retaining the predetermined form of the prefetch request;

computer usable program code for associating the identifier with the retained predetermined form in order that the predetermined form can be identified and used in subsequent performance of a real update request, such that the retained

predetermined form is used by the DBMS in place of parsing the real update request; and
computer usable program code for returning the identifier in response to the pretend update request.

26. (New) The system of claim 25 further comprising computer usable program code for initiating a real update request by destructively getting a message from a queue comprising the update request, the real update request using prefetched data.
27. (New) The system of claim 26 further comprising computer usable program code wherein initiating a real update request is performed by a master thread and browsing a message is performed by one or more read ahead threads.
28. (New) The system of claim 27 further comprising computer usable program code wherein processing of the master thread is maintained behind the read ahead thread by a predetermined number of messages.
29. (New) The system of claim 25 further comprising computer usable program code for informing a memory manager that the prefetched data used may be discarded from memory subsequent to the use of the prefetched data in the processing of the real update request.